for which the funds are spent, or on amounts that may be spent for certain goods or services.

[0015] Therefore, according to one aspect of the present invention, a system is provided allocating funds in preestablished accounts, including:

[0016] a controller process programmed: (a) to process data; (b) to create for each customer a customer account file; and (c) to transfer funds from customer account files to vendors of audio and video entertainment in the form of goods and services, in response to customer command instructions;

[0017] an input device for supplying command instructions to the controller processor; and

[0018] a data storage device associated with the controller processor in which file records of the customer account files created by the controller processor are stored, including information on the amounts of funds deposited for the customer;

[0019] wherein the controller processor is programmed to process and store information in the storage device for each customer account, in response to command instructions from fund depositors, limiting how the funds may be spent on the audio and video entertainment, wherein the limit on the funds is either a limit on transaction amounts, or a limit according to content on the audio or video entertainment on which the funds may be spent.

[0020] Preferred systems in accordance with this aspect of the present invention permit fund depositors to establish periodic limits on the amount of each transaction by the single transaction, day, week, month or so forth. Another preferred system establishes periodic fund deposits, essentially equivalent to an allowance payment by the day, week or month. The periodic deposit may be performed automatically. The present invention also includes systems in which periodic deposits are made independent of limits on transaction or content. Therefore, according to another aspect of the present invention, a system for allocating funds in pre-established accounts is provided, including:

[0021] a controller processor programmed: (a) to process data; (b) to create for each customer a customer account file; (c) to transfer funds from customer account files to vendors of audio and video entertainment in the form of goods and services, in response to customer command instructions; and (d) to process command instructions from depositors to transfer funds periodically to customer account files;

[0022] an input device for supplying command instructions to the controller processor; and

[0023] a data storage device associated with the controller processor in which file records of the customer account files created by said controller processor are stored, including information on the amounts of funds deposited periodically for the customers by fund depositors.

[0024] In yet another preferred system of the present invention, an itemized statement is issued to the fund depositor periodically, i.e., weekly or monthly, providing an accounting of how the funds were spent. In the situation of

a parent making an allowance payment, a statement would be sent, similar to a bank or credit card statement, listing the audio and video entertainment in the form of goods and services that were purchased.

[0025] Nevertheless, the present invention also includes systems in which such an accounting is not provided, with the primary advantage being the ability to limit transaction amounts. The entertainment content may alternatively or additionally be limited according to genre, artist or content rating.

[0026] According to another aspect of the present invention, computer-based methods for operating the systems of the present invention are provided. Methods in accordance with this aspect of the present invention include the steps of:

[0027] creating for each customer a customer account file including a primary file containing a record of funds deposited for the customer; and

[0028] limiting how the funds in the customer account file may be spent on audio and video entertainment in the form of goods and services in response to command instruction from the fund depositor;

[0029] wherein the limit on the funds is a limit on transaction amount or a limit according to content on the audio or video entertainment on which the funds may be spent.

[0030] Preferred methods according to this embodiment of the invention provide for the establishment of limits in the amounts of transactions. The limit may be periodic, either by the transaction, day, week, month, etc. Another preferred method provides for periodic fund deposits, by the day, week or month. The periodic deposit may be performed automatically. The present invention therefore also includes methods in which periodic deposits are made independent of limits on transaction or content. Therefore, according to another aspect of the present invention, a method for allocating funds in preestablished accounts for use by customers is provided, including:

[0031] creating for each customer a customer account file containing a record of funds deposited for the customer for spending on audio and video entertainment in the form of goods and services; and

[0032] periodically depositing funds into customer account files in response to command instructions from the fund depositor.

[0033] The system of the present invention is not limited to currency accounts, but also includes credit accounts, within which the account holders may establish a sub-line of credit that may be drawn against by a third party recipient. Thus, for purposes of the present invention, the term "funds" is defined as including credit lines extended to account holders and third party recipients, as well as currency deposited by account holders. The account holder may require the third party recipient to repay the drawn credit, and the account may thus be employed to control a young person's use of credit, but at the same time teach them how to use the credit responsibly.

[0034] The system of the present invention thus provides a tool for a wage earner to provide spending money to a dependent, and at the same time teach the dependent how to